

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated May 20, 2004 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1- 8 as either being indefinite under 35USC §112 or being anticipated by Hoshika et al (JP 2-301773) under 35USC §102(b).

Applicant has amended all the claims 1-8 and added new claims 9-13 to better define the invention and perfect the claim language, and believes that such amendments have overcome the rejections under 35USC §112. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the amendments.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention as defined in the amended and newly added claims is not anticipated by Hoshika. In particular, there is no teaching or implication of the distinguishing feature that the base of the adaptor is attached to the lateral side of the toner cartridge as now expressly defined in all independent claims 1, 7 and 10. As shown in Figures 2 and 3 in Hoshika, the toner cartridge 14B is inserted into an adaptor 30 along its length, and then closed by an end cover plate 30A-2 so as to be retained in the adaptor 30 by means of retaining edges 30A-1 that extend longitudinally. Therefore, the toner cartridge 14B in Hoshika is not attached to a lateral side of the toner cartridge. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 7 and 10 are not anticipated by Hoshika under 35USC §102(b), and are thus patentable.

At least for the same reasons, dependent claims 2-6, 8-9 and 11-13 are believed also patentable as each of them includes all the limitations of independent claims 1, 7 or 10. In particular, dependent claims 5, 8 and 11 further define a bracket-opening attachment mechanism that comprises at least one bracket provided on the base and a corresponding opening formed on the lateral side of the toner cartridge, which is not disclosed in Hoshika. Moreover, dependent claims 9 and 13 further define that the base of the adaptor is generally a flat plate in shape, which is clearly different from the complicated configuration of the adaptor 30 in Hoshika. Therefore, the patentability of these

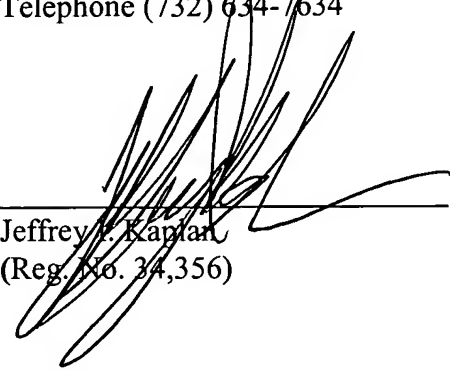
dependent claims is further strengthened by their additional distinguishing features.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the above remarks and amendments. The Examiner is authorized to deduct additional fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

KAPLAN & GILMAN, L.L.P.
900 Route 9 North
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095
Telephone (732) 634-7634

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Jeffrey L. Kaplan
(Reg. No. 34,356)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 7, 2004.

Dated July 7, 2004 Signed  Print Name Ute H. Wojtkowski